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page 29

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# DOUBLE-DUTY CABANA

**Yesteryear's waterfront "changing house" has changed into a full-time fun house.**

*By Nancy Ingram*



Cabanas have come a long way from their origins as simply-built shelters for bathers seeking relief from the sun and surf, or places for a quick change of clothes after a dip in the sea.

Today's cabanas have moved away from sandy beaches to urban landscapes. Instead of seaside, cabanas are poolside. Instead of bare necessities, these structures are miniature households.

Such is the case in Tulsa, where architect Jack Arnold designed and built a poolside cabana that doubles as a guesthouse for a family that enjoys

entertaining and encourages guests to stay a while.

This well-equipped cabana includes a fully equipped kitchen with eating bar, a bathroom, living area, and a laundry station for all those swimsuits and towels. The living area is so cleverly conceived that when guests do spend the night, two full-size beds fold out of the wall with little hassle and total comfort.

Practicality was the owners' top consideration. They wanted easy-care materials and a versatile design to fulfill the building's dual roles of guest cabin and day-to-day cabana for their

family of six.

To assure that easy-care aspect, brick surfacing was continued from the patio deck into the living space. To make it a full-service family place, the kitchen, though small, is complete in every way. On the left of the kitchen is a full bath, on the right is a laundry nook with stacked washer and dryer.

Six pairs of French doors all around provide cross-ventilation during mild weather and, when they're all thrown open, give the cabana a pavilion quality. For all seasons, central heat and air-conditioning assure year-round comfort.

**LEFT:** A cupola at the peak of the vaulted ceiling acts as a skylight and is electrically lighted so it can flood the space with light even on dreary days. **ABOVE:** A meandering creek puts this site in a floodplain, so local code required this cabana to be elevated 7 feet. Lattice and some creative planting by landscape designer Dave Collins keep the structure visually grounded.



ARCHITECT: JACK ARNOLD, AIA  
 INTERIOR DESIGNER: CHARLES FAUDREE  
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: DAVE COLLINS  
 PHOTOGRAPHER: GENE JOHNSON, HAWKS  
 PHOTOGRAPHY, INC.  
 ILLUSTRATOR: CARSON ODE  
 480 SQUARE FEET

**TOP:** Interior wizard Charles Faudree cast a spellbinding interior design that is pretty to look at and easy to live with. Nothing has been overlooked. A compact seating arrangement faces the entertainment center. Fabrics are easy-care, furnishings are comfortable, and colors are light, bright, and airy. Disguised as storage cabinets flanking the entertainment center, two full-size beds pull down from the wall. ■ **RIGHT:** Fully made and guest-ready beds tuck up into the wall. Slide the club chairs toward the couch, flick the latches, and you have an instant guest suite. For stay-over families, the sofa also conceals a pullout bed.

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